

The citizenship premium

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Propositions

belonging to the PhD dissertation

The Citizenship Premium

Immigrant Naturalisation and Socio-Economic Integration in the Netherlands

Floris Peters

1. Citizenship is both status and practice, yet these aspects are often analysed in isolation. The sociological life course paradigm is a good starting point to bridge both dimensions of citizenship due to its emphasis on structured agency.
2. In so far as citizenship promotes the labour market integration of immigrants, it matters particularly leading up to naturalisation. The underlying mechanism is an *anticipation effect*.
3. The positive effect of naturalisation for the probability of homeownership stems from legal status discrimination by lenders. Possession of the host country citizenship placates feelings of risk associated with the presumed creditworthiness of foreign-born individuals.
4. The literature on the citizenship premium focuses too much on economic outcomes of naturalisation. The settlement process constitutes more than labour market integration.
5. Quantitative migration scholars should be more transparent about operationalisations and model specifications, and should strive to harmonize those with other studies if possible, to facilitate the contextualisation of empirical findings.
6. The prevalent conceptualisation of immigrant lives through the lens of singular status divisions, for instance from native to migrant or from non-citizen to citizen, obscures important variation, and does not facilitate informing policy-makers.
7. The coalition agreement of the Rutte III government states that politics should focus more on the experience of Dutch individuals rather than numbers and statistics. Contrarily, I argue that it is irresponsible to leave political decisions up to whimsical polls and opinions of policy-makers, and that numbers and statistics are crucial for informed policy decisions.
8. Requirements for naturalisation that do not serve an integration objective can easily turn into mechanisms of exclusion. Examples include a long residence requirement (more than 5 years) and application costs for naturalisation. Such eligibility criteria should be avoided.
9. The plan of the Dutch government to 'modernise' its citizenship policy, by abolishing provisions of loss of citizenship due to voluntary acquisition of the Dutch nationality for foreign-born individuals, is welcome. Removing this obstacle to naturalisation may encourage migrants to naturalise, and facilitate their integration.
10. An oboe is *not* "like a clarinet", nor is a soprano saxophone ever an acceptable substitute for one.